Amasamudram exchange is planned for expansion fro$_m$ 300 lines to 400 lines, the two MAX-II1 exchanges namely Sar-karnagar of 200 lines and Tisayanvillat of 135 lines are planned to be converted t$_0$ MAX-U exchanges with 200 lines capacity each. For other exchanges which d$_0$ not have capacities, plans are being drawn for providing telephone connections *to* waiting list persons by suitable augmentation

(d) During the plan period, Ambasundaram iMAX-II exchange is proposed to be expanded from 300 lines to 400 lines. Existing MAX-III exchange of Sarkar Nagar and Tisayanvillai are proposed to be converted to 200 lines MAX-II each ,for which the equipment has already been received. Besides a No Of MAX-IT1 exchanges are also proposed to be expanded during the plan period subject to availability of euiqpment and demand for new telephone connections as per policy of the Dspartment

Setting up of Singrauli Thermal Power Plant

271. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

fa) by when, the Singrauli Thermal Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh is expected to go into production; and

<*b)* what is the expenditure incurred and likely to b$_e$ incurred in setting up this plant and what is the projected power production capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI STUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). All Units of Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project, of a total installed capacity of 2000 MW, have already been commissioned. The approved cost of the project, alongwith the associated transmission lines, is Rs. 137*93 crores; till lanuary, 1988 an expenditure of Rs. 1257; 66 crores had been incurred.

National Comiminicaiion Network

272. SHRI RAOOF VAL1ULLAH: Will ihe Minister of COMMUNICATIONS $_v$ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build up a National Communications nei.-work and whether for this purpose separate imported sub-system for Railways, ONGC, Energy and Detente sectors are proposed to be set up;

(b) whether the present telecommunication services in the country are i$_n$ a position of cater to the highly sophisticated needs of these sectors which require un-inter-rupted communication facilities; an$_t$l

(c) whether it is considered safer for such vital sectors to have their own inde. pendent network, if not, what are the rea sons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRi VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) An integrated multi-user national telecommunication network already exists in the country. It provides the public telephone, telex, telegraph and data servics as well as leased circuits for large users. This network provides many of the communication requirements of organisations like De. fence Railways ONGC and Energy also. ^^

Certain specialised and unique operational requirements of some of these organisations call for supplementing of the facilities provided by the public network by dedicated networks specifically designed for their use. These are built up through a mix of dedicated facilities and circuits and equipment leased from the public network maintained and operated by Department of Telecommunications.

Occasionally if a particular equipment is not available indigenously import could be resorted to in order to meet time targets of the specialised agencies.

The present and planned national telecommunication network in the country can cater to many of the needs of these specialised organisations. Wherever necessary as already being done this could be supplemented by dedicated facilities.